

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 15 and 16, 1923.

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1924 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building, on Thursday, November 15, and Friday, November 16, 1923. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Fraser,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Bacon,
Mr. Howbray,
Mr. Medary,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and

Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held September 27, were approved, with an amendment to paragraph 10, page 9, concerning the statue of "Justice", so as to omit the phrase "and vastly superior as an artistic production to the surroundings"; and with an amendment offered by Mr. Bacon to paragraph 16, page 11, Arlington Memorial Bridge, that the Commission consider the question of running the bridge along the same line as the axis of the Mall. Mr. Bacon said that Colonel Sherrill was very much in favor of it, as it would then connect with the Lee Highway, and that from the Mall axis extended one gets a splendid view of the city.

2. STATUE OF "JUSTICE": Mr. Moore stated that no formal reply has

been made to the Department of State concerning the statue, but that he had talked with Mr. Wright, Third Assistant Secretary of State, who has the matter rather in charge, and had asked Mr. Phillips, the Undersecretary of State, to visit Mr. O'Connor at his studio in Paxton and see the model, which Mr. Phillips promised to do.

The Commission discussed the subject at length, and noted from the correspondence that nothing had been heard from Mr. O'Connor regarding his model for a period of 7 years, until he reported a year ago that his revised model was about complete. The Commission felt that the figure should not be named "Justice". Mr. Ayres suggested that the State Department be asked for a definite statement of their instructions to Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Bacon said that Mr. O'Connor should be asked to modify his model or change the figure so that it represents what the Department and the Commission had been led to expect; that a statue of the model as it is at present should not be placed in the Peace Palace at The Hague.

3. DOMINICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL: Mr. Adolph A. Weinman, sculptor of New York City, submitted a photograph of his model of the Dominican Campaign medal, prepared for the Navy Department. For the obverse Mr. Weinman had perfected a sketch submitted by the Navy Department of Fort Ozama, at the entrance of Santo Domingo harbor, in the tower of which it is reported that Christopher Columbus was imprisoned; for the reverse he designed an eagle. The Commission expressed their appreciation of the excellence of Mr. Weinman's work, and approved the model with a minor change in the eagle.

4. HUGUENOT-WALLOON MEMORIAL COIN: Under date of October 26, 1923, the Director of the Mint, Treasury Department, submitted to the Commission models made at the United States Mint, of the Huguenot-Walloon Memorial 50-cent piece, which is to be minted by authority of Congress for the Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary celebration in 1924. The obverse of the model showed the portrait of Coligny and William the Silent, and the reverse a design of the ship New Netherland.

The Commission inspected the models. Mr. Fraser felt that the composition of the design was good but that the execution was bad. The Commission decided that the work on these models does not conform to the standards set by the Commission and disapproved them. (Exhibit A).

5. HENRY B. F. MACFARLAND MEMORIAL: The Macfarland Memorial Committee, through Mr. Charles T. Tittman, Chairman, submitted a design for a memorial fountain to be erected to the memory of the late Henry B. F. Macfarland, former Commissioner of the District of Columbia. The design called for a drinking fountain, the lower section to carry the fountain bracket and the upper part the inscription and a bronze relief portrait head of Mr. Macfarland, in the form of a medallion $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter. The medallion was designed by Mr. Bush-Brown, sculptor, of Washington. Cost of the memorial is to be \$2,700. The site suggested by the Committee for the memorial is in the triangle west of Peck Chapel, at 28th and M Streets, N.W., with the upbuilding of which Mr. Macfarland had been identified. The Committee advised that while the bill for the Macfarland Memorial passed the Senate at the last Congress, it did not pass the House, owing to a crowded calendar, and that the bill would be reintroduced.

The Commission inspected the design for the fountain and the sketch of

the ground plan submitted, and considered them at the site proposed. The Commission noted that there is now a spraying fountain on this triangle, but bad in design, and felt that a good spraying fountain would be a more appropriate memorial to Mr. Macfarland at this site than a drinking fountain. The Macfarland Memorial Committee was advised accordingly (Exhibit B).

6. HOME FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED: Captain John E. Wood, Assistant to the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, and Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted a ground plan for the development of the Home for the Feeble Minded of the District of Columbia. Captain Wood stated that Congress had appropriated \$280,000 and that the District Commissioners had purchased for this Institution a tract of 825 acres for \$38,000 lying along the Patuxent River and adjoining Camp Meade. The ground plan indicated about 12 groups of proposed buildings, among them an Administration Building, a domestic building and dining hall, dormitory, hospital, wards, schools and shops, employees' cottages, and power plant. Captain Wood said that to meet conditions in the District of Columbia, necessary provision must be made in this Institution for taking care of white and black people in separate buildings; that they must make provision for the care of 400 inmates at once and ultimately for at least 1,000. Captain Wood and Mr. Harris submitted tentative sketches of proposed buildings, with the suggestion that in view of the economy program of the Government temporary structures be built for the present. However, the Commission recommended that at least one or two permanent buildings of each group be built, so as to emphasize the type of structure proposed for the Institution. The Commission concurred in the statement of Mr. Bacon that the ground-plan seemed an orderly arrangement, but that some of the roads should be eliminated and simplified. As for the

sketches of buildings, the Commission advised restudy and simplification of them,-the buildings should be as simple as farm houses in the neighborhood, no cupolas, well proportioned windows, plain walls, partitions of plaster or other fire-proof material and fire-proof floors.

7. IMPROVEMENT OF THE STREET LIGHTING, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Captain Wood introduced Mr. Joseph Gosling (formerly designer of Caldwell & Company, New York City), and Mr. E. F. Dickerson, Chief Engineer of the Illuminating Section of the General Electric Company, both of Schenectady, New York, who presented revised designs for the new and enlarged lamp posts proposed for the Avenues and Plazas in the District of Columbia. Mr. Bacon said that these gentlemen had called at his office in New York City a few days ago for a conference on the subject. Mr. Gosling submitted 5 designs (which were marked A, B, C, D, E), showing a double lamp, 2 lights being thought necessary to give adequate illumination for the avenues and plazas.

Mr. Gosling explained in detail mechanical devices inside of the globe and post proposed, in connection with which the cleaning of the globe and ash disposal, so as to avoid its accumulation in pockets, were emphasized. The designs submitted by Mr. Gosling provided for a luminous arc lamp with a mechanism which provides for easy ash removal. The globe he said is to be not more than 20 inches in diameter and of the "classic" type.

The Commission observed that the difficulty would be to secure lights which would contain the necessary mechanical device, and at the same time be so designed as to be an organic part of the posts and not merely stuck on. The Commission favored the simplicity of the globe fixtures of design marked A and the pole of design B, and suggested that a new design be made to embody these features. The Commission thought a round base, as that of the present

Millet post, is to be preferred, but Mr. Gosling stated that it is necessary to have a square or octagonal base. The octagonal base, he said, is to be preferred, and is needed for necessary mechanical devices at the base of the post, which will be made accessible by a door 10 inches high and 7 inches wide; a cord would pass from this device at the base through the shaft to the lights. Mr. Bacon said he felt the Commission is "on the right track", but that before passing finally upon the design a full size model should be made. The Commission endorsed the suggestion.

Mr. Moore said he spoke to Mr. Bacon during the discussion about the possibility of putting a simple holder on the post for some uniform decoration for the city and that Mr. Bacon had made a sketch of a pennant, such as they use in Paris on their posts. Mr. Moore said these pennants are to be preferred to the awkward poles and other things of that kind which are being used now in decorating the city.

Mr. Bacon stated that the American Institute of Architects took up through one of their committees, after the pageant at the Lincoln Memorial last spring, the problem of decorations for the city, but that he did not know how far the committee had progressed with it. Captain Wood said the District Government would like to have that settled; that generally the decoration is done by private subscription, and in a rather haphazard fashion. The Commission suggested that a photograph of the Paris lamp post, such as Mr. Moore said he saw there last summer, be secured for the next meeting.

8. NUNS OF THE BATTLEFIELD MONUMENT: The Commission inspected a full-size model (solar print) of the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument, which had been placed by Mr. Jerome Connor, sculptor, on public grounds near his studio. The Commission approved the model. The Commission endorsed the suggestion of

Mr. Bacon that the letters of the inscription be somewhat enlarged and that only two sizes of letters be used; no inscription should be on the back of the monument (Exhibit C).

9. ARLINGTON AMPHITHEATER "MUSEUM": Mr. Moore stated that at the request of the War Department, some time ago, Mr. Hastings had made cases, which had been placed in the rooms of the building connected with the Amphitheater at Arlington, and that in these cases there had been placed ribbons of Armistice Day, and insignificant mementos. Mr. Moore said that questions concerning the admission of mementos and memorials into this "Museum" have been placed before the Commission by the War Department, and in this connection Mr. Moore read a letter which he had addressed to the Secretary of War and to the Secretary of the Navy on the subject (Exhibit D), together with an acknowledgment from the Secretary of War, as follows:

"I will take up the matter submitted in your letter of November twelfth with the Secretary of the Navy, and will communicate with you later".

The Commission had intended to visit the Amphitheater, but other duties prevented, and the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

10. TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AT ARLINGTON: Mr. Moore advised that Mr. Hastings is preparing, at the request of the War Department, a design and estimate for a complete monument to the Unknown Soldier at Arlington. Mr. Moore said it was found that people were eating their lunches on the present unfinished tomb and to prevent this sacrilege a wooden picket fence was placed around it; however, this has been removed, and now the White House is trying to get the Secretary of War to have a soldier guard the Tomb. Mr. Moore stated that in connection with the design of the Tomb, Mr. Hastings is making a study of an appropriate arrangement of the area in front of the

Amphitheater. In the World War cenotaph by ^{Putnam} Lupkins in London they have places for the national standards, and Mr. Moore raised the question whether or not those of the United States could be placed at the side of the Tomb of the Unknown in a similar way.

11. BUCHANAN MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore read a letter addressed to him by General Lawrason Riggs, 632 Equitable Building, Baltimore, Md., dated November 15, 1923, as follows:

"We have had constructed a full size model of the Buchanan Memorial which is to be placed in Meridian Hill Park. The plaster casts for the sculpture have been completed and are in place on the model.

"The sculptor, Mr. Schuler, and the architect, Mr. Beecher, are very anxious that you and other members of the Commission should inspect this model and comment upon it. The designers are especially anxious to have the sculptor on the Commission see the model.

"I should like very much to have you come any time after the middle of next week and if you will let me know the day and hour of your arrival, I can meet you and take you to the location."

The Commission noted that the site which has been selected for the Buchanan Memorial is on the east side of the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park, and expressed the hope that this part of the park may be completed in the near future.

The Commission concluded to arrange to see the model on the way to Washington when attending the next meeting of the Commission.

12. ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL: Mr. Medary stated that the Roosevelt Memorial Association had come to the point where they want to consider the actual planning of the Roosevelt Memorial and had asked him to take up with the Commission of Fine Arts the question of the advisability of acquiring the

site on the axis of the White House, south of the Washington Monument for a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in Washington; that the Roosevelt Memorial Association, through its secretary, Mr. Hermann Hagedorn, has advised that the site on the south axis of the White House is the one for which the Association has stated its preference, and that the Association desires from the Commission of Fine Arts a definition of the boundaries, which should be named in asking for the use of this site and in placing the matter before competitors. Two other sites considered are near Pierce's Mill in Rock Creek Park, and Sixteenth Street Heights, near the District Line.

Mr. Medary said that he had been advised by telegram, of November 15th, that Mr. Root, Chairman of the Sub-committee on the Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in Washington, had resigned, owing to ill-health, and that Mr. Will Hays has been suggested as his successor. Mr. Medary then called attention to the visit of Mr. Olmsted with Mr. Moore a few days ago here in Washington and read a copy of a letter (Exhibit E) addressed by Mr. Olmsted to Mr. LaFarge with regard to the area south of the Washington Monument; in which letter Mr. Olmsted, as a member of the Senate Park Commission of 1901, calls attention to conditions as they existed in that locality when the Plan of 1901 was made, and the problems that the Roosevelt Memorial Association would have to meet if they wish to take that site for the memorial,--among these are in particular a curtailment of Twining Lake, control of the traffic problem, and the site in its relation to the Plan of 1901. The Commission considered Mr. Olmsted's letter by items, as they were read, and thought he had presented well the important problems to be met.

The Commission felt that a restudy would have to be made with the Engineer Corps, of Twining Lake, which in addition to being used by thousands for bathing, serves as a tidal basin, and there might be objection to

a curtailment of the lake. The fundamental idea of the Tidal Basin was to store water on a rising tide, to be discharged in the Washington Channel on a receding tide in order to flush the Washington Channel. There are a set of automatic gates, which prevent the water from entering the tidal basin through the Washington Channel, the basin being filled by water entering from the Georgetown Channel. The operation is continuous and is regarded as necessary to keep the Washington Channel clean.

As for the railroad and motor traffic problem, including street car lines, in the locality, the Commission realized that this is one requiring a great deal of study, as affecting not only the present but future years. The locality marks the entrance to Washington from Richmond and the south, and a treatment such as the Piazza del Popolo might be possible. The Commission concurred in the views of Mr. Olmsted that no dominating central object in the scale of the Lincoln Memorial on the south axis of the White House be placed there, but rather that the objects on that axis be minor incidents in scale with their local surroundings. The Commission did not object to a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in this area, but emphasized the necessity of having any plan for the development of the area be in harmony with the Plan of 1901. After noting these and other important matters to which Mr. Olmsted called attention in his letter, Mr. Moore made the suggestion, which the Commission endorsed, that a map showing the area south of the Washington Monument be given to the Roosevelt Memorial Association, with the statement, "convince the Commission of Fine Arts that you have some treatment of this area that will be satisfactory to this Commission". Mr. Moore said that until the Roosevelt Memorial Association has satisfied the Commission of Fine Arts with a plan for the treatment of the area, there is no use in their going to congress with legislation, for congress will come

back to the Commission for advice on the subject.

The Commission disapproved the idea of a stadium at the site south of the Washington Monument, which some have suggested for a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt. A stadium has been planned in connection with East Potomac Park.

Mr. Greenleaf said the Roosevelt Memorial Association is missing a great opportunity in not going to the northern boundary of the District on 16th Street Heights, where a great Roosevelt Portal to the city could be made,--that there the Roosevelt Memorial could be given architectural dignity and grandeur in composition.

13. SEAL FOR THE STATIONERY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR: Mr. Moore stated that during a call on the Secretary of the Interior recently, he was informed of an effort on the part of that office to secure a new seal letter heads of the Department of the Interior; for ~~their stationery~~ that he found the design very bad and said he would bring it to the attention of the sculptor member of the Commission.

Mr. Fraser inspected the design, and his suggestions were embodied in a report to the Secretary of the Interior (Exhibit F).

14. INTERNATIONAL ART EXPOSITION IN VENICE: The Commission was informed by the Department of State of an International Art Exposition, to be held in Venice in the spring of 1924, the State Department having received the following Memorandum from the Italian Ambassador on the subject:

Royal Italian Embassy, Washington, D.C., October 1, 1923
Mr. Secretary of State:

"The committee for the International Art Exposition at Venice has informed the Italian Government that it has already invited the United States Government to take part in the Exhibition which will be held there sometime next spring, and that it has expressed its earnest hope that the United States will participate

and dedicate a pavilion to an exposition of American art. Your Excellency is certainly aware of the importance of these Biennial Expositions in which the principal nations of Europe are largely represented, and that constitute an important event in the affirmation of modern arts.

"Following to instructions of the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I beg to say that the Italian Government would see with much pleasure the participation of the United States to the Venetian Exposition which would give art lovers of all countries the opportunity to see the contribution of the artists of this great Nation in the field of fine arts.

"I would therefore be much obliged to Your Excellency for having the appropriate Department informed of what precedes and requested to give favorable consideration to this matter.

"Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Caetani.

The Commission ~~expressed~~ themselves as being very much in favor of the desired cooperation on the part of the United States government, but said pending Congressional action, the Commission could act only unofficially. As to a suggestion that the American Academy in Rome could be asked to take up the matter, Mr. Mowbray, former Director of the American Academy in Rome, said that he felt it would be better to interest all the leading art societies of this country in the exposition, as the American Academy in Rome is representative of only particular fields of art.

Later in the day at a luncheon, at which the Italian Ambassador, Don Gelasio Caetani, was the guest of honor, details of the exposition were explained by the Ambassador. There were also present, in addition to Hon. Dwight F. Davis, Assistant Secretary of War, and Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, the secretary of the Ambassador, Signor Silenzi, and Mr. Harlan Miller, of the Department of State, to discuss the subject with the Commission. Prince Caetani stated that the exposition is conducted biennially in Venice and that at the present time practically all of the

leading countries of Europe have either permanent buildings or rented pavilions at the exposition grounds, on land leased in perpetuity by the municipality. The cost of a permanent building he thought would be about \$10,000. At the exposition he said effort is made to exhibit works of artists in the various fields of art of different countries, including industrial as well as the fine arts, and that the exposition is being visited by large numbers of people, including Americans. The cooperation of the United States is therefore greatly desired, and the Ambassador hoped that arrangements could be made for an exhibition at least in temporary quarters. Mr. Mowbray said he would bring the matter to the attention of Mr. Blashfield, President of the American Academy of Design, upon returning to New York, and in the meantime Mr. Moore said he desired to talk with Mr. Phillips, Undersecretary of State, with regard to the exposition. (Exhibit G).

15. ANACOSTIA PARK DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN: Under date of November 13, 1923, the Commission received the following letter from Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Chairman of the Anacostia Reclamation Board, in which the advice of the Commission was asked with reference to the development of the Anacostia Park, north of Benning Bridge, in its relation to the proposed National Botanic Garden and Arboretum:

"Under the provision of Public Act No.441, Approved March 2, 1911, The Board of Engineers in charge of the reclamation of the Anacostia Flats is making a report to Congress, especially in reference to the continuation of the improvement work above Benning Bridge.

"In view of the active interest taken by the Commission of Fine Arts in the past in the plan for the Botanic Garden adjoining this area, the Board of Engineers would be glad to give to the members of the Commission or Fine Arts a hearing on all phases of this question in the Board rooms in the Office of the District Engineer in the Old Land Office Building".

The hearing took place in the office of Major J. A. O'Connor, the District Engineer in Charge of Washington projects, at 11:00 a.m., Friday, November 16th. All the members of the Commission attended the hearing; also Major J. F. Bell, Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, Captain W. A. Snow, representing Major O'Connor, Mr. Edward A. Schmitt, Engineer, in charge of the reclamation work, in the office of Major O'Connor, Dr. F. C. Coville, Botanist, Dr. Theo. S. Palmer, President of the Audubon Society of Washington, and Ornithologist, Department of Agriculture, and Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, who was chairman of the meeting.

Colonel Sherrill stated that the District appropriation act for the fiscal year 1924 required the Anacostia Board to submit a specific report to Congress as to the plans for development north of Benning Bridge along the most economic lines, and that a restudy had been made by the Board of the various features connected with the project; among these is the plan for a National Botanic Garden and Arboretum, in which the Commission of Fine Arts is particularly interested.

Colonel Sherrill stated that the Anacostia Board had for several years been prevented from continuing the work north of Benning Bridge, and had been required to spend the appropriation for work south of that bridge, but that now the project has reached a stage of development where reclamation work to the District Line should be taken up. The Hearing of the Commission of Fine Arts, on the National Botanic Garden before the Joint Committee on the Library in 1920, which had in view the acquirement of the Mount Hamilton tract, discloses that there are many prominent scientific men and organizations throughout the United States interested in the project, and Colonel Sherrill said, all the members of the Anacostia Board recognize its worth but felt it should be considered a national project which could be developed in later years. Colonel Sherrill said the Anacostia Board had therefore made a restudy of the Anacostia Park plan north of Benning Bridge, in connection with which the preliminary plan for a National Botanic Garden, prepared for the Commission of Fine Arts in 1920, had been carefully considered and that the revised plan (which he exhibited) embodied the various features in which the Anacostia Board and the Commission of Fine Arts are interested,--a plan which it is thought will meet the approval of Congress.

Colonel Sherrill thereupon introduced Mr. Edward A. Schmitt, who is in charge of the men that do the reclamation work, to explain the plan.

Mr. Schmitt spoke briefly of the history of the development of Anacostia Park, saying that he had devoted a great deal of time and study to this reclamation project; that for several years the reclamation work has been stopped, mainly he thought because of problems to be met north of Benning Bridge, and that he felt the revised plan and report to be submitted to Congress is the best solution for the present, and will permit of the continuance of the reclamation work north to the District Line. There has been opposition, he said, on the part of the Washington Railway and Electric Company, which has objected to shifting its tracks in order that the dredging outfit could be brought past Benning Bridge, and the Potomac Electric Power Company has large cables extending across the stream at this point, from which the city receives a large part of its current. Among the important changes made in the plan are: the channel, which is 300 feet wide and 9 feet deep, is to continue in its original course, and thereby considerable money will be saved; a proposed Allen Bridge, estimated at \$500,000, at Benning Road, will be omitted and instead a culvert used; the "bird sanctuary" has been relocated at the northern end of the park; the Mount Hamilton area proper has not been included in the plan, as this would require a change in the taking lines, to which the Anacostia Board feels there would be serious objection in Congress--at present the taking line of the Anacostia Reclamation project extends to the 10 foot contour above mean low tide; an area of 130 acres has been allowed for Garden purposes at the northern end of the park, and also the Shaw Lily Gardens (the largest in the United States) have been included in the plan.

Mr. Schmitt said the Anacostia Board felt that the park feature of this area should be recognized, as there is really no park for the residents in the eastern section of the city; therefore, instead of having the bird sanctuary near Benning Bridge, it is proposed to relocate it and develop an island adjacent to Benning Bridge, which would be accessible by street cars in going to the northern and southern sections of the park--which is not now possible neither in East nor West Potomac Park; there will be a series of lakes and islands in the northern section of the park so that the water garden feature will be maintained. Mr. Schmitt said he felt the plan as drawn would meet the approval of Congress, in which event the reclamation work could continue north of Benning Bridge to the District Line, and thereupon the various features could be taken up from time to time in the course of its development. The distance from Benning Bridge to the District Line, he said, is 2 miles, and it will be several years before the preliminary work is completed, as Congress has been providing only a limited sum from year to year for the work. The plan as drawn, he said, is a decrease in the original cost of 25%.

Colonel Sherrill thereupon called for remarks from others present.

Mr. Moore said he understood the problems before the Anacostia Board in their effort to continue the work north of Benning Bridge, and felt this

revised plan should go through. Mr. Bacon said he hoped they would not have to build a lot of stone walls along the banks, and Colonel Sherrill replied that it was the desire of the Board to save all the money they could on stone walls. Mr. Greenleaf asked as to the necessity for building stone walls, saying that he would prefer rip rap or gravel as along a lake shore, and Mr. Schmitt replied that the Anacostia Board has found stone walls necessary to avoid a break in the islands, and to prevent the mud banks from looking unsightly,--that there is a strong current in the stream and high tide tears things to pieces. Mr. Greenleaf also called attention to the desirability of continuing the reclamation work north of the District Line to Hyattsville--that it should not be restricted to political boundaries--whereby the entire area will be brought into a comprehensive scheme. Major Bell, District Engineer Commissioner, said he felt the importance of bringing the Anacostia development to the District Line, in order to connect with the Fort Drive, which is to connect the Anacostia Park, at Fort Lincoln, with Rock Creek Park,--that the Bill for the Fort Drive is to be reintroduced at the next Congress. Major Bell also said he regarded it very important to preserve the water shed for the streams supplying the District with water, particularly Rock Creek Park, from which he said a parkway should extend along Rock Creek to Rockville and give protection to the stream. Dr. Coville said that the Secretary of Agriculture had only very recently recommended that the Mount Hamilton area could be acquired for a National Botanic Garden and Arboretum (Exhibit H).

A lengthy discussion then took place with regard to the preservation of the "Bird Sanctuary", or the feeding place for the birds, for the retention of which Dr. Palmer spoke very earnestly and emphatically. Dr. Palmer said

that thousands of birds, many of them migratory birds, come to these wild rice marshes for food and to roost. He deplored the fact that the marshes south of Benning Bridge had been obliterated by the reclamation work and urged that an adequate section of wild rice area be maintained for the birds north of Benning Bridge. Dr. Palmer said the preliminary plan for the National Botanic Garden contemplated reserving an 80 acre wild rice tract near Benning Bridge and its proposed relocation to the northern end of Anacostia Park will not be satisfactory as the birds will not eat the wild rice in that section near the woodland, also he said the birds will not eat "domesticated" wild rice but they want such as is now obtained in the natural wild rice area near Benning Bridge. Mr. Schmitt said that, as he had pointed out, this section should be developed into a park area which would connect the northern and southern sections of Anacostia park, and if Dr. Palmer did not approve of placing the Bird Sanctuary at the northern end of Anacostia Park as proposed, he thought it could be reserved in a section along the eastern shore of the Anacostia River, opposite the site originally proposed for the Bird Sanctuary, much marshland being also in that area. Dr. Palmer said that ought to be done and that he thought such change would be satisfactory. The birds, he said, should not be driven away, but should be encouraged to come here; that a bird sanctuary can be made one of the great attractions of the city, just as at Miami and other cities.

Colonel Sherrill said the Anacostia Board had not realized heretofore so fully the bird feature, as explained by Dr. Palmer, and that the park plan would be changed to show the bird sanctuary at the site selected along the eastern shore of the river. On the whole, the plan met with general approval, and one which it was hoped would meet the approval of Congress.

16. WORLD WAR HEADSTONES: Under date of November 2, 1923, the Commission received the following letter from the Quartermaster General, regarding the World War Headstones:

"With reference to your letter of October 24, 1923, concerning revision of the design on the World War headstones for graves in Europe, enclosed herewith, please find drawings and specifications for the World War stones. It had been contemplated to use this design for the European graves, when appropriations became available.

"This office will, however, be very glad to have the views of the Commission as to any modifications deemed advisable in the design and to receive drawings of a redesigned headstone embodying the Commission's suggestions as to increasing the size of the circle."

Mr. Moore stated that the original headstone for World War graves was designed by Mr. Platt in 1920, based on dimensions furnished by the

War Department. The dimensions of Mr. Platt's headstone were-

38 inches long, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at the bottom, then tapering inward on each side to the top, so as to be 10' wide; $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick; American white marble. 16 inches above ground.

In September, 1921, the War Department advised that it was found desirable to enlarge the size of the original headstone somewhat, so as to make the headstone more durable than the one originally proposed, and the following dimensions were agreed upon by a special board of the War Department, with the approval of the Secretary of War, and which is now being used:

42 inches full length; 24 inches above ground; 13 inches wide, 4 inches thick. American white marble.

Also each headstone has near the top an emblem of religious faith, either a Latin Cross, or a Star of David.

This emblem, as it appeared at the top of Mr. Platt's original model, was 2.25 inches in diameter, but in enlarging the headstone, the War Department overlooked the matter of enlarging the emblem proportionately. According to advice received from Mr. Platt the diameter of this circular emblem should be increased from 2.25 to 2.75 inches. For the headstones of the World War graves in Europe it is proposed to enlarge the emblem, upon the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts.

Mr. Greenleaf said he very much regretted the use of the larger headstone for the American Cemeteries in Europe, and said he would have it even smaller than Mr. Platt's stone; that the markers used at present give one a perspective of stone, whereas a perspective of green grass, such as in the old Civil War Section in Arlington, is to be preferred. Mr. Greenleaf stated further that it was intended in planning the cemeteries to give them a simple, quiet, park effect, with scattered shade of trees, and that this should be adhered to.

Mr. Moore said there is no reason why this criticism by Mr. Greenleaf should not be included in the report to the War Department, as no appropriation has been made for the World War graves in Europe; that Mr. Olmsted had expressed himself emphatically before the members of the Commission when they went to Europe to prepare the designs for the cemeteries, that the stones ought to be flat on the ground, being the new cemetery idea. Mr. Medary said the oldest idea in this country is to use flat stones for graves.

Mr. Moore thereupon read the following communication which had been received from the American Battle Monuments Commission with regard to the World War Headstones in Europe:

November 13, 1923.

"At the last meeting of the American Battle Monuments Commission the suggestion was made that there was much to recommend the use of the form of the cross for headstones in the American Cemeteries in Europe. It is fully appreciated that the adoption of the form in present use must have resulted from adequate research and study. Nevertheless, the Commission feels that it would like to be acquainted with the reasons which led to the adoption of this form, and would greatly appreciate any information which you could give relevant thereto.

"Furthermore the Commission would like to know the opinion of the National Commission of Fine Arts as to whether the cross would be artistically superior to the present type of headstone. The suggestion was made at the meeting of the American Battle Monuments Commission that if the expense of providing each grave with a cross (or, where needed, a Star of David, of similar proportions) of a stone were too great, it might be possible to use some other material such as non-corrosive iron, painted white. The National Commission of Fine Arts might have some opinion as to the feasibility of this proposal".

The Commission disapproved the use of a cross for the World War graves in Europe, this matter having heretofore been very carefully considered by the Commission, being impracticable for placing the inscription and less durable than the solid headstone. The suggestion of the use of the non-corrosive iron cross, painted white, was condemned.

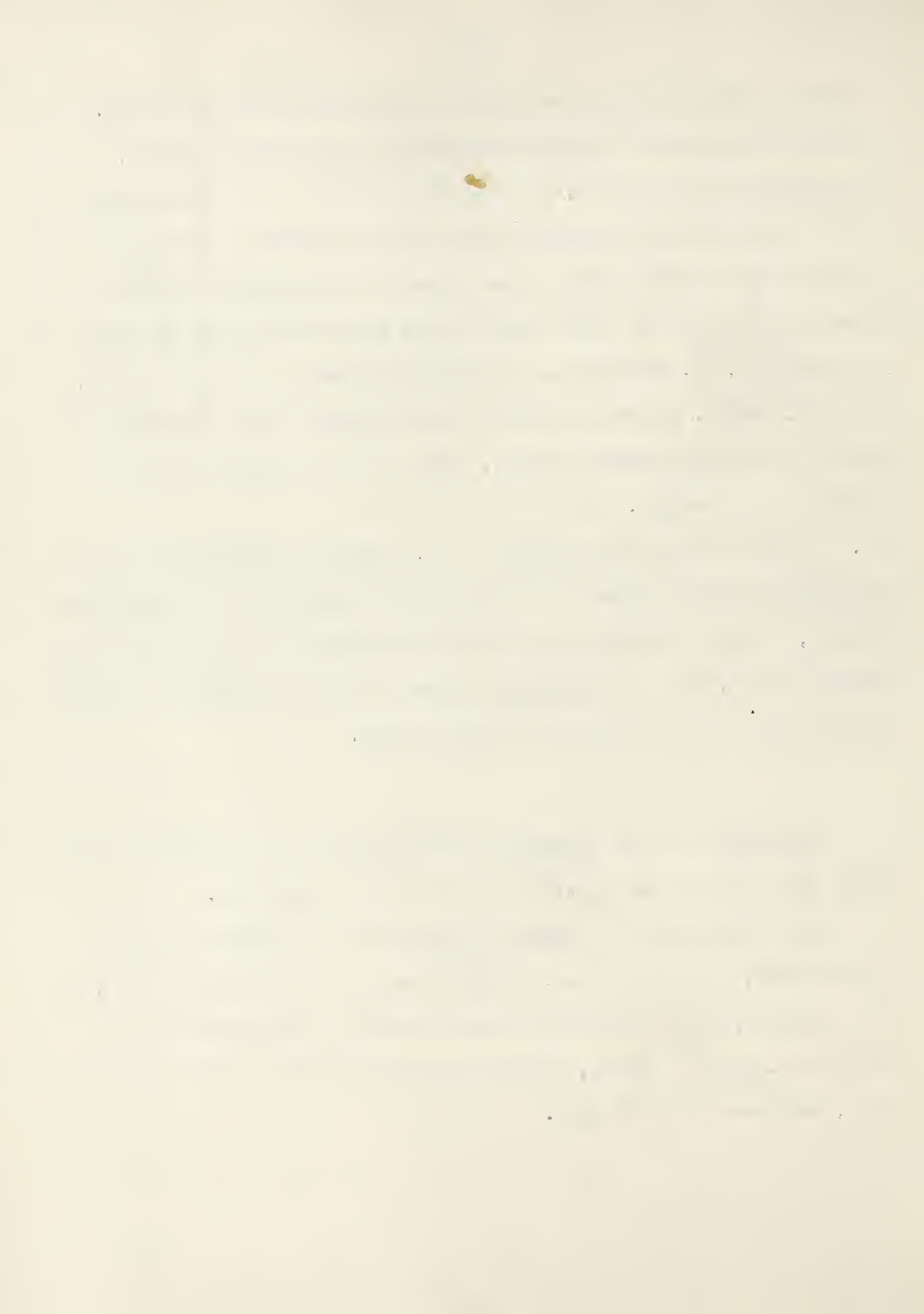
17. LANDSCAPE PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ROSSLYN: Mr. John Small, Jr.,

Landscape Architect, submitted designs for the improvement of Rosslyn. The designs contemplate clearing away the old dilapidated buildings, straightening out the roads, and providing a plaza at the Virginia end of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, with roadways extending to Arlington and to nearby residence sections and towns. The Commission welcomed these plans as meeting a great need for the improvement of the locality. Mr. Greenleaf, Mr. Frank Lyon, a prominent resident of Arlington County, Mr. Small and Mr. Caemmerer, made a trip of inspection over the grounds, during which details were discussed, which will be embodied in further studies of the designs.

18. PLAN OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL: Mr. Greenleaf advised that the Government Printing Office has printed copies of the Plan of the National Capital, to which attention was called at the meeting of the Commission on September 27th, and that the Superintendent of Public Documents is making them available to the public at 20 cents a copy.

The members of the Commission were received by Mrs. Coolidge at the White House and were her guests at tea on Thursday afternoon.

On Friday noon at a luncheon at Rauscher's the Commission had as their guests, His Excellency, Don ^{Greenleaf} ~~Caetani~~ Caetani, Ambassador of Italy, and his secretary, Signor Silenzi; Mr. Harlan Miller, of the Department of State; Hon. Dwight F. Davis, Assistant Secretary of War, and Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol.



C O P Y

November 19, 1923.

Dear Sir:

The models for the Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary coin, submitted by your Bureau under date of October 26, 1923, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 15th.

While the ideas intended to be expressed are excellent, the execution is bad. The lettering is poor, the heads are not well modeled and the ship is ill designed. The workmanship is below the standard of excellence attained in previous coins. The models are therefore not approved.

The models are herewith returned.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

C O P Y

November 22, 1923.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 15, gave consideration to the sketches which you submitted with your letter of October 30, 1923, for the Henry B. F. Macfarland Memorial fountain, and visited the site suggested for the memorial--a triangle at the intersection of 28th and M Streets, near Peck Chapel.

The site selected by you was connected with Mr. Macfarland's activities during a long series of years. It is therefore quite appropriate for a memorial to him. It is occupied at present by a large fountain, capable of using a large jet of water. This large fountain should be retained on this spot at all hazards. It is needed at the divergence of two very busy streets. The fountain itself is ill-designed and may very well be replaced by a memorial fountain. The ground should be lowered approximately to the level of the sidewalk in such a manner as to retain the trees at the easterly end, which should be used as a constituent part of the composition. The coping of the memorial should be flush with the ground and a memorial inscription should be placed thereon, together with a medallion of Mr. Macfarland, all designed as a part of the coping. Then a single jet of water, sufficient in volume to form an attractive feature of the vista and to give the sound of running water, should be used.

Very respectfully, yours,

Mr. Charles T. Tittman,
Chairman, Macfarland
Memorial Committee.

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

EXHIBIT B.

COPY
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 19, 1923.

Dear Mr. Connor:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 15, 1923, approved your full size model for the monument to the Nuns of the Battlefield. As you were personally advised, the letters of the inscription should be somewhat enlarged, and only two sizes of letters should be used. No inscription should be on the back of the monument.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Jerome Connor, Esq.,
322 North Carolina Ave., S.E.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C.

November 12, 1923.

Sir:

Public Act No.397, 66th Congress, provides among other things for the creation of a Commission composed of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, which shall submit annually to the President, who shall transmit the same to Congress by the first Monday in December, recommendations as to what, if any, inscriptions, tablets, busts, or other memorials shall be erected * * * within the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater.

Section 3 provides that no inscription, tablet, bust, or other memorials shall be erected * * * within the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, unless specifically authorized in each case by Act of Congress.

Section 5 provides that the character, design, and location of any such inscriptions, tablets, busts, or other memorials * * * shall be subject to the approval of the Commission, which shall in each case obtain the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts.

From time to time during the past year the Depot Quartermaster, who is executive and disbursing officer of the Commission, has called upon the Commission of Fine Arts for advice as to matters connected with the Memorial Amphitheater, but, so far as I know, no report has been submitted to Congress on the subject, and the memorials now occupying the building in connection with the Amphitheater are without authorization by Congress as by law provided. An inspection of the museum at the Amphitheater, made in company with the Depot Quartermaster, discloses the fact that the cases, well designed and elaborate in themselves, are used for the display of the ribbons and other mementos connected with the burial of the Unknown Soldier. In many cases these ribbons are crumpled and soiled and have no significance as memorials. In fact they are quite unworthy of display. Exceptions to this might include the various bronze wreaths and other more prominent memorials contributed by various French organizations, Distinguished Service Cross Citation Certificate, and the Figure of Victory contributed by the Chinese government.

It is a question, however, whether the Museum itself should be entirely devoted to the display of memorials connected with one event, when the Amphitheater was erected in honor of the soldiers and sailors of the wars of the Republic. Congress has specifically authorized the inscription of the names of the following soldiers and sailors:

Army

Washington
Greene
Wayne
Jackson
Scott
Taylor
Grant
Sherman
Thomas
Sheridan
McClellan
Meade
Merritt
Shafter

Navy

Jones
Truxton
Preble
Hull
Decatur
Perry
McDonough
Stewart
Farragut
Porter
Foote
Worden
Dewey
Sampson

In view of this fact, it is suggested that the two floors of the

Museum be arranged to include memorials of the soldiers and sailors above mentioned, whose names are inscribed on either side of the platform of the Amphitheater. If this suggestion shall seem good to the Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts would be pleased to make suggestions to carry it out in the manner contemplated by the Act of Congress above referred to.

In this connection also attention is called to the fact that no appropriation has been made for the completion of the memorial to the Unknown Soldier. At the time the body was interred, the lower part of the memorial was constructed and the casket placed therein with the idea of completing the memorial when Congress should make provision therefor. A sketch model on a small scale was presented to the Commission of Fine Arts through the Secretary of War. The general form of the memorial was approved by the Commission, but it was deemed essential that a full size model be erected with the view of determining the scale and detail. In view of these facts, the Commission of Fine Arts respectfully recommends that the Secretary of War recommend to Congress that an appropriation of \$50,000 be made available for the completion of the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, to be erected under the supervision of the Secretary of War.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War.

(Copy of the Act attached)

EXHIBIT D.

COPY

(PUBLIC NO. 397, - 66th CONGRESS)

(H. R. 8032)

An Act to provide for the erection of memorials and the entombment of bodies in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That a commission is hereby created, to be composed of the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy, which shall submit annually to the President, who shall transmit the same to Congress by the first Monday in December, recommendations as to what, if any, inscriptions, tablets, busts, or other memorials shall be erected, and what, if any bodies of deceased members of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, shall be entombed during the next ensuing year within the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, in the Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia: PROVIDED, That no memorial shall be placed and no body shall be interred in the grounds about the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater within a distance of two hundred and fifty feet from the said memorial.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of War shall be the chairman of the said commission and the depot quartermaster of the Army in Washington shall be its executive and disbursing officer.

SEC. 3. That no inscription, tablet, bust, or other memorial shall be erected nor shall any body be entombed within the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater unless specifically authorized in each case by Act of Congress.

SEC. 4. That no inscription, tablet, bust, or other memorial as herein provided for shall be erected to commemorate any person who shall not have rendered conspicuously distinguished service in the United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps, nor shall the body of any such person be entombed in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater; nor shall any such memorial be erected or any body be entombed therein within ten years after the date of the death of the person so to be commemorated, except as heretofore and hereafter authorized by Congress.

SEC. 5. That the character, design, and location of any such inscriptions, tablets, busts, or other memorials when authorized as herein provided, shall be subject to the approval of the commission herein created, which shall in each case obtain the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts.

APPROVED, March 4, 1921.

COPY

Written from the Office of Olmsted Brothers

Written on Seaboard Ry.,
October 26, 1923
Typed in Brookline, Mass.,
October 30, 1923.

Mr. C. Grant LaFarge,
101 Park Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear LaFarge: For the reasons indicated in my note written from Washington, it seems best for the next step in the Roosevelt Memorial matter to proceed on the assumption (1) that there are no insuperable objections from the standpoint of hydraulics and the effect on the Washington Harbor Channel, to any amount of filling within the Twining Tidal Basin that may seem desirable from the point of view of esthetics and the public use of the park, and (2) that Congress will assent to the location of a Roosevelt Memorial within the area in question and to such changes as are implied therein.

If, after proceeding on this basis for a time, the conclusion should be reached that the location of the Roosevelt Memorial in that area is desirable for other reasons provided those assumptions are correct, those assumptions can then be investigated.

It would therefore seem that the way to go ahead would be for Medary to begin formulating a preliminary draft of a statement of the problem and its conditions such as would be embodied in a competition programme. If, as this develops, it continues to look promising, the Secretary of War can be interested in the project and can seek from the Engineer Corps assurance that the programme does not run afoul of insuperable objections from their standpoint; or, if it does so as drafted, then secure their assistance in adjusting the limitations to be imposed on the competitors so as to avoid such insuperable difficulties.

Then the proper committees of Congress can be asked to give approval, or, if they think necessary or desirable, to secure a Congressional Resolution approving the holding of a competition as proposed without definitely committing Congress to the grant of a site in advance of any knowledge of what sort of thing it is proposed to erect there.

As a contribution toward Medary's draft I offer the following thoughts, leaving you to pass them on to Medary if you see fit with your comment:

1. Limits of Area. I should be inclined to describe the locality to which the Memorial is limited in general but easily understood terms rather than to define arbitrary boundaries the precision of which might seem to have a significance which they do not possess. Something to this effect: "Within that part of Potomac Park lying between the railroad embankment and Twining Lake together with the waters of Twining Lake", or "within that portion of Potomac Park included in Twining Lake and the lands between Twining Lake and the Railroad Embankment".

2. Bridge Approaches and other means of Circulation: There should of course be a clause to the effect that if in connection with the location and design proposed for the memorial it should be necessary or desirable to modify the present arrangements for the circulation of traffic of various sorts, including the bridge traffic, arrangements at least as satisfactory as those now existing must be provided for in the plan. It would be well to point

out what the important lines of traffic are, including one which is now very badly provided for, namely between the bridge and the west side of Twining Lake toward the Lincoln Memorial and 17th Street.

3. Bathing Establishment. A similar proviso should be made in regard to the bathing beach and bath houses, with an indication of the probable need of considerable further expansion of capacity.

4. Boating: There is a possibility, although I am not so sure of its practicability as Moore is, that small boating and canoeing might be extensively developed in Twining Lake and that the plan should take account of this as a desideratum.

5. Cherry-show. Attention should be called to the fact that in cherry blossom season there is great public resort to the borders of Twining Lake to enjoy the effect of bordering masses of cherry trees and their reflection in the water, and that it is quite desirable to perpetuate such effects as an important element of the general design.

6. Relation of the design to the studies of the Park Commission of 1901, and especially to the Washington and Lincoln Memorials.

This is of course the real crux of the problem.

It is clear that competitors should be cautioned to plan nothing which would not be appropriate in relation to a development of the area surrounding the intersection of the White House axis and the Washington-Lincoln axis as proposed by the report of 1901, this area extending to a limit approximately as far south of the Washington Monument as the latter is south of B Street North.

South of this limit the plan of 1901 showed a treatment symmetrical about the White House axis, occupying the width from 15th to 17th Streets, and coming to a focus at the intersection of the White House axis with the axis of Maryland Avenue produced. This treatment took the form of a rectangular field flanked by buildings and having a central building at the focus above mentioned. It was suggested that this area with its group of associated structures might be made a memorial, or unified series of memorials to the "Founders of the Republic" or the "Framers of the Constitution".

This portion of the plan of 1901 was less carefully studied than any other major part of the "Mall area", but it embodies certain elements which any revision or substitute plan cannot properly depart from, namely:

There should be a recognition and expression of the White House axis extending as an open vista without interruption or obstruction past the Washington Monument to a focus at or near the point where it is intersected by the line of Maryland Avenue forming a diagonal vista to the Capitol.

The fact that the floor of this vista is now occupied by a railroad does not alter the fact that it is one of the big elements in the original L'Enfant Plan. But it is reasonable that the Commission of Fine Arts should now review, with more thorough study than the Commission of 1901 was able to give it in the time at its disposal, the question of whether it is or is not best that the southern monumental focus of the White House axis should be placed on the Maryland Avenue axis, or should be deliberately placed off that axis on the

theory that the permanent location of the railroad at a level high enough to pass over the marginal street of the Washington Channel makes it impracticable ever to develop a satisfactory treatment of the floor of a vista on Maryland Avenue between a focal monument of the White House axis and the dome of the Capitol; and therefore makes it undesirable to locate the focal monument in such a way as to invite attention to a vista thus condemned to imperfection and anticlimax.

It must not be forgotten that when the members of the Commission of 1901, almost at the last moment, agreed on the tentative plan for the southern area, the present railroad development did not exist; and also it must not be overlooked that since this is the only railroad outlet through Washington to the South it is not at all inconceivable that it may have to be widened and elaborated to carry a vastly greater traffic than at present. It is not merely that there is a railroad on Maryland Avenue. That might be decked over as on upper Park Avenue. But the elevation of the railroad is such that the present bridges across it, and any more extensive decking, form a bad "hump" in the vista from any point on the White House axis as near tide level as the flats of Potomac Park. Moreover there are considerable areas of railroad yard adjacent to Maryland Avenue.

I have not formed any opinion about this important point. I am just beginning to think about it now that I take up again seriously, after twenty-two years, a part of the plan which McKim and I never did thrash out as thoroughly as we did most of the other parts of the central scheme (except the Capitol cascades). Clearly it is a point on which the Commission of Fine Arts will have to come to a conclusion before a competition programme for a memorial in this neighborhood can be issued.

There is another rather fundamental question of design in regard to the treatment of the southern area on the White House axis which was never discussed by the Commission of 1901, and which forced itself on my thoughts when I took the matter up afresh this week.

Standing on the southern shore of Twining Lake and looking north one can see the White House flag pole over the trees. It is flanked on the left by the brutal big mass of the State, War and Navy Building soaring above the trees and is backed up by ragged high buildings, probably apartment houses, on 16th Street. From that distance and with such a setting and background the White House will be very insignificant in scale. The dome of the Capitol, the Washington Monument, and the colossal order of the Lincoln Memorial are in scale as vista-points with the proportions of the vistas. The White House considered as a point from which to look out upon a vista that loses itself in the broad distance of the Potomac (or would if it were not for the abominable big steel girders of the railroad bridge) is delightful and appropriate in its domestic scale. But considered as a "reciprocal" vista-point attempting to hold its own at the northern end of a vista over a mile long which terminates at the south in a memorial structure of a scale fitting to become coordinate with the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, I fear it would seem very inadequate and disappointing.

I feel more and more inclined to believe that no dominating central object at all in the scale of the Lincoln Memorial or in the scale adjusted primarily to the length of the vista ought ever to be erected on the southern axis of the White House, but rather that any objects on that axis should be minor incidents in scale with their local surroundings. In other words, that the treatment of the White House axis should be that of a succession of landscape

units of moderate scale, strung like beads on a string, each having objects in scale with the unit in which they find themselves rather than in scale with a single great simple unit such as the one from 17th Street to the Lincoln Memorial and the one from the Washington Monument to Union Square.

The Monument Garden, which is a unit common to both axes, was in fact so designed that the scale of objects in its central open space would make it appropriate as an element in two axes, one characterized by large units and a large scale and the other by smaller units and a smaller scale. But the more I think of it the more I am inclined to feel that in the treatment of the unit south of the Monument garden the scale of the objects should step down again rather than step up.

If I am right this points more than ever toward the idea of a group or series of relatively minor memorials in this unit and suggests that the focus be marked not by a monumental mass of importance, intended to count as a dominant object from a mile away, but by a local incident like a basin or a fountain or a flagpole.

This might lend itself to the grouping around it or in relation to it of a number of memorials of great men of the first rank below Washington and Lincoln.

There would be a logical and poetic fitness in devoting this region to the memorials of the Founders of the Republic, but I do not know, looking a century or more ahead, since there are no other localities at focal points of the great plan, and never will be for all time, that there is not a strong argument for a scheme which would provide for great Americans of other periods than that of the Founders; and moreover I conceive that it would be a hard undertaking to crystalize at any one time enough interest in memorializing the Founders ever to put over so large an undertaking as even the beginning of the reconstitution of this part of Potomac Park into a well designed relation to the rest of the big plan.

7. Of course there would be a paragraph calling for suggestions for any modifications in Potomac Park beyond the Memorial proper considered desirable for the best total results, and competitors should probably be asked to indicate precisely which of these changes they consider vital and which merely desirable.

On the basis of such a limitation of site as is now contemplated the competition would boil down to a more normal type of thing than the one suggested by our committee.

Also it looks as though the Lion in its original conception as to setting, etc., were almost ruled out from the start.

By the way, I was curiously wrong in my recollections of the point where the axis intersects the railroad, and in thinking that any possible mound beyond the railroad would relate to the axis unless filled out into the river.

Also, by the way, a thing which doesn't seem to relate to the Roosevelt Memorial but is an important matter for the Commission to bear in mind, especially as affecting the Bridge and the Lincoln Memorial: another hundred years of silting, in the absence of any further depression or elevating of the coast, will fill up the edges of this part of the Potomac Estuary to the point where the water will be about as narrow as above Great Falls. The only alternative, the only thing that will keep anything like the present broad sweep of water, would be dredging in perpetuity all the mud the Potomac brings down! Randall's 9-arch bridge is likely to have one span, or at most three, over water and the rest over dry meadows. That is no joke and ought to be very seriously taken into account in the design.

Sincerely yours,

F. L. Olmsted.

EXHIBIT E.

C O P Y

November 27, 1923.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at the meeting on November 15th, considered the design proposed for the letterheads of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. James E. Fraser, the sculptor member of the Commission, thought that the composition of the design was good, but that the execution of it was bad. The lettering is very poor. The head of the eagle should be redesigned to make it look like an eagle. The only way to get a good letterhead is to have a die made by a competent man. The Government as you know does not employ artists, and it would be necessary to have the work done outside the service. This would cost \$500, which is a reasonable price considering the time, work and skill involved. When once a die is made it can be used for all kindred purposes of the Department.

The Commission will be pleased to give the matter further attention at your request.

Sincerely, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Hubert Work,
Secretary of the Interior.

EXHIBIT F.

C O P Y

November 21, 1923.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Your letter of November 16th, enclosing a translation of a note from the French Ambassador, extending an invitation of the French Republic to that of the United States to participate in an International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts, to be held in Paris in 1925, has been received.

Previously this Commission has received through the Department of State an invitation from the Italian Government for the United States to participate in the Biennial Exposition in Venice, and the Commission replied in the latter case that it would be pleased to confer with the Italian Ambassador to learn the details of the Venice Exposition. Such a conference was held on Friday last, and the matter has been taken up with the American Academy of Design with a view to ascertaining the feeling of the American artists in relation thereto.

Obviously these two invitations imply provision by Congress for such participation on the part of the United States. The matter is one of such importance to the Fine Arts and the Industrial Arts of this country, that I would be pleased to confer with you at an early date to ascertain the opinion of the Department of State as to the advisability of asking Congress to make provision for such participation.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. William Phillips,
Undersecretary of State,
Department of State.

EXHIBIT G.

C O P Y

June 22, 1923.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

For many years past this Department has been deeply interested in the establishment in or near the city of Washington of a National Arboretum and Botanical Garden adequate to the needs of the country and in particular adequate to the needs of this Department as an adjunct to its important work of plant breeding and plant introduction.

The understanding of the need of such an Arboretum and Botanical Garden has been complicated by the fact that there has existed for many years directly west of the Capitol Grounds a small ornamental garden that has had the designation "National Botanic Garden." Through legislation by the last Congress this garden has now been given a new site and new conservatories to the south of the old site but still contiguous to the Capitol Grounds, where its purpose can be served still better than heretofore. These gardens near the Capitol having thus been provided with an admirable site and equipment, the establishment of the desired National Arboretum and Botanical Garden can now be discussed without a misunderstanding regarding its name and its needs.

In the Act making appropriations for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924 (Public No. 457 - 67th Congress, H. R. 13660, Stat. No.) occurs the following provision:

"For continuing the reclamation and development of Anacostia Park, \$150,000, to be expended below Benning Bridge.

"The Board of Engineers constituted by Public Act Numbered 441, approved March 2, 1911, is hereby directed to submit through the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, on the first day of the next regular session of Congress a report on the desirability or undesirability of continuing the said project above Benning Bridge and if it is to be so continued what modifications in existing project above Benning Bridge appear desirable and in the interest of economy. Such report shall include such recommendations with a statement of the facts and shall include detailed estimates of cost under the modifications proposed compared with the estimates under present plans and the decrease in cost as a result of such modification."

I wish to lay before you, and through you before the Board of Army Engineers which is to report on the Anacostia River engineering project above Benning Bridge, the recommendation of this Department that the plan of drainage and reclamation for that area be made with reference to the use of the area for an Arboretum and National Botanical Garden, substantially as outlined in the report of the National Commission of Fine Arts dated May 18, 1920, to the Honorable Frank B. Brandegee, Chairman of the Committee of the Library, Senate of the United States, published in the Hearing before a Joint Committee on the Library held May 21, 1920, with the modifications subsequently approved by the Commission.

The plan outlined by the Fine Arts Commission involves the purchase of an area of 367 acres of land known as the Mt. Hamilton tract, as provided in Senate Bill 4485, Sixty-sixth Congress, Second Session. The modifications proposed by the Fine Arts Commission in the original engineering plan for the improvement and reclamation of Anacostia River above Benning Bridge involves an estimated saving which it is understood is sufficient to pay for the purchase of the Mt. Hamilton tract. This tract together with the available area of the Anacostia Flats above Benning Bridge, constitutes a total area of about 800 acres, admirably adapted to arboretum and botanical garden purposes.

One of the features of the Arboretum and National Botanical Garden, proposed by my predecessor as Secretary of Agriculture, in a letter to Major C. S. Ridley, Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission, under date of September 30, 1920, is the preservation of an 80-acre tract of the wild-rice marsh of the upper Anacostia River as a bird sanctuary where future generations of citizens can still see migrating birds resting and feeding by hundreds of thousands precisely as they have done for ages past. It is believed by the proponents of this plan that the ordinary means of mosquito control will keep these areas free from any mosquito-borne disease, but they point out that should it turn out otherwise a special study of the area could be made by the entomological experts here and special methods of mosquito control be determined.

Sincerely yours,

Henry C. Wallace,

Secretary.

EXHIBIT H.

